

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: RECOMMEND VISIT TO URUGUAY

REF: STATE 282506

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

1. I STRONGLY URGE THAT YOU VISIT URUGUAY AT LEAST FOR A FEW HOURS IN CONNECTION WITH YOUR MID-FEBRUARY TRIP REPORTED REFTEL. SUCH A VISIT WOULD HAVE MAJOR PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE IN THIS COUNTRY WHICH HAS NO REAL PROBLEMS WITH THE US BUT NOW FEELS SOMEWHAT ISOLATED FROM AND MISUNDERSTOOD BY THE US, ITS TRADITIONAL FRIEND WITH WHOM IT HAS ALWAYS SHARED SO MUCH IN COMMON. THERE IS VERY LITTLE WHICH WE CAN DO FOR URUGUAY IN A MATERIAL WAY IN VIEW OF DIMINISHED AID RESOURCES AND THE RELATIVELY DEVELOPED STATE OF THE COUNTRY IN ANY CASE. NEVERTHELESS, URUGUAY HAS BEEN A COUNTRY MOST SEVERELY AFFECTED BY THE WORLD ENERGY CRISIS AND IT ALSO SUFFERED A SUBSTANTIAL LOSS OF ITS EXPORT MARKETS AS WELL, PARTLY AS A RESULT OF THE ENERGY CRISIS. THUS, UNLIKE MANY COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE HAD SOME COMPENSATING RELIEF FROM IMPROVEMENT IN PRICES OF THEIR EXPORT COMMODITIES, URUGUAY HAS HAD A DOUBLE BLOW AND A COMPOUNDING OF ITS PROBLEMS. THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW ENGAGED IN A BROAD AND DIFFICULT PROGRAM OF REFORM AIMED AT ABSORBING AND DEALING WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BOTH LONG AND SHORT TERM. ON THE POLITICAL LEVEL URUGUAY IS A COUNTRY WHOSE INTERESTS AND

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TRADITIONS GENERALLY HARMONIZE WITH OUR OWN AND WHOSE VOTES IN

THE INTERNATIONAL FORUMS MORE OFTEN THAN NOT ARE THE SAME AS OUR OWN. AS FOR THE NEW DIALOGUE, URUGUAY HAS BEEN A STRONG SUPPORTER OF AND PARTICIPANT IN THE CONCEPT. IT HAS IN KSNMINISTER BLANCO AN ATTRACTIVE, ABLE, PERSONABLE AND ARTICULATE REPRESENTATIVE WHO HAS BEEN PERSONALLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE NEW DIALOGUE UP TO NOW. WHILE SOME RECENT PRESS CRITICISM SUGGESTS AT LEAST AN EROSION OF EARLIER HELD OPTIMISM, I THINK BLANCO CAN STILL BE COUNTED UPON TO WORK WITH US, WHILE WITH DIGNITY AND INDEPENDENCE, NONETHELESS WITH FLEXIBILITY AND OPEN-MINDEDNESS TOWARD ACHIEVING REAL PROGRESS AT BUENOS AIRES. YOUR VISITING URUGUAY WOULD THUS HELP TO ENSURE CONTINUED URUGUAYAN COOPERATION IN YOUR EFFORT TO FORTIFY OUR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH LATIN AMERICA GENERALLY WHILE UNDOUBTEDLY STRENGTHENING OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AS WELL. SYMBOLICALLY, A VISIT HERE WOULD ALSO DEMONSTRATE THAT YOU ARE INTERESTED SMALL FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THOSE LARGER AND MORE TROUBLESOME ONES ALREADY INCLUDED ON YOUR ITINERARY. SINCE YOU WILL BE IN THE AREA IN ANY CASE, TO DROP IN HERE FOR A FEW HOURS WOULD PROBABLY NOT CAUSE PROBLEMS ELSEWHERE.

2. SPECIFICALLY, I PROPOSE A MINIMUM VISIT OF A FEW HOURS IN WHICH YOU COULD MEET WITH PRESIDENT BORDABERRY AND FONMINISTER BLANCO INCLUDING A LUNCH IN YOUR HONOR AT THE RESIDENCE. IF AN OVERNIGHT STOP WOULD BE MORE CONVENIENT, ARRIVAL EARLY ENOUGH TO PERMIT BUSINESS MEETINGS BEFORE A SOCIAL ENCOUNTER AT THE RESIDENCE WOULD BE IDEAL.

3. I CAN GUARANTEE YOU AN ENTHUSIASTIC AND CORDIAL RECEPTION AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT AT THIS TIME SUCH A VISIT COULD DO MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE TO GIVE A PSYCHOLOGICAL LIFT TO URUGUAY, REPRESENT A REAL PLUS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS AND STRENGTHEN THE WILL OF AN ARTICULATE COLLABORATOR IN THE NEW DIALOGUE.
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